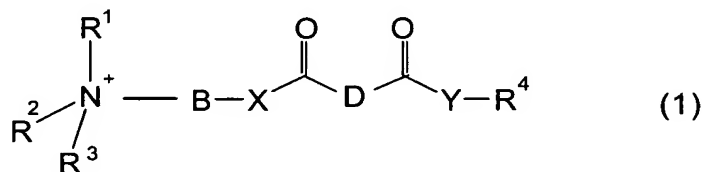


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.(Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting gas hydrate formation in a mixture of hydrocarbon and water, said method comprising adding to the mixture a compound of ~~The use of compounds of the formula (1)~~



where

R^1, R^2 are each independently C_1 - to C_{22} -alkyl, C_2 - to C_{22} -alkenyl, C_6 - to C_{30} -aryl or C_7 - to C_{30} -alkylaryl,

R^3 is C_1 - to C_{22} -alkyl, C_2 - to C_{22} -alkenyl, C_6 - to C_{30} -aryl or C_7 - to C_{30} -alkylaryl, $-\text{CHR}^5-\text{COO}^-$ or $-\text{O}^-$,

R^4 is M, hydrogen or an organic radical having ~~which optionally contains~~ heteroatoms and has from 1 to 100 carbon atoms,

B is ~~an optionally substituted~~ straight-chain or branched C_1 - to C_{30} -alkylene group,

D is an organic radical having ~~which optionally contains heteroatoms and~~ has from 1 to 600 carbon atoms,

X, Y are each independently O or NR^6 ,

R^5, R^6 are each independently hydrogen, C_1 - to C_{22} -alkyl, C_2 - to C_{22} -alkenyl, C_6 - to C_{30} -aryl or C_7 - to C_{30} -alkylaryl, and

M is a cation

~~as gas hydrate inhibitors.~~

2.(Currently Amended) The method of use ~~as claimed in claim 1~~, wherein B contains hydroxyl groups.

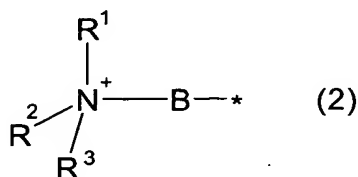
3.(Currently Amended) The method of use ~~as claimed in claim 1~~ [[and/or 2]], wherein B is a C₂- to C₄-alkylene group.

4.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~use as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein R¹ and R² are each independently an alkyl or alkenyl group of from 2 to 14 carbon atoms.

5.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~use as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein R³ is an alkyl or alkenyl group having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms.

6.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~use as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein R⁵ and R⁶ are hydrogen.

7.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~use as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 6~~, wherein R⁴ is a radical of the formula (2)



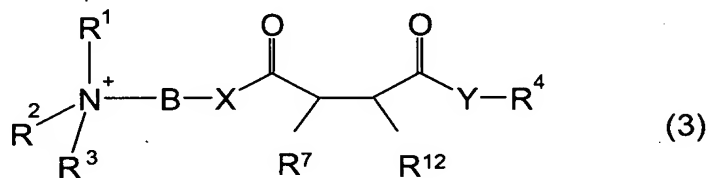
where R¹, R², R³ and B are each as defined in claim 1.

8.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~use as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 7~~, wherein

D is a C₂- to C₅₀-alkylene or C₂- to C₅₀-alkenylene group.

9.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~use as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 7~~, wherein D is derived from substituted succinic acid derivatives having from 10 to 100 carbon atoms.

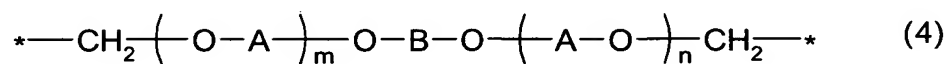
10.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~use as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 7~~, wherein D is a radical of the formula (3)



where

R⁷ and R¹² are each either hydrogen or a C₂- to C₁₀₀-alkyl or C₂- to C₁₀₀-alkenyl radical which is obtainable as an oligomer of C₂- to C₈-alkenes and may be straight-chain or branched, with the proviso that exactly one of the R⁷ and R¹² radicals is hydrogen, and R¹, R², R³, R⁴, X, Y and B are each as defined in claim 1.

11.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~use as claimed in one of more of claims 1 to 7~~, wherein D is a radical of the formula (4)



where A is a C₂- to C₄-alkylene group which may be straight-chain or branched, m and n are each independently a number in the range from 0 to 30 and B is as defined in claim 1.